The present invention of amended independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30 and 31 addresses the foregoing problem by deriving a shift amount of the output position of the ink (or locus) image according to the insertion of a character string to the text data and outputting the ink (or locus) image data overlaid on the new text image, where the ink (or locus) image is shifted according to the derived shift amount.

By virtue of this arrangement, the relational position of the plurality of data items is maintained when an edit process is effected.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines an information processing method. The method comprises storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced. The method further comprises inserting a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared. Still further, the method comprises deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted, and outputting, as the new document, the ink image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted, the ink image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Amended independent Claim 10 defines an information processing method. The method comprises storing document information comprising locus information and text information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced. The method further comprises editing the text information. Still further, the

method comprises deriving a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information, and outputting the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Amended independent Claim 14 defines an information processing apparatus. The apparatus comprises received mail storing means that stores a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced. An insertion means inserts a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared. A shift amount deriving means derives a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted and an output means outputs, as the new document, the ink image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted, the ink image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Amended independent Claim 26 defines an information processing apparatus. The apparatus comprises storage means that stores document information comprising locus information and text information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced. A text edit means edits the text information. A shift amount deriving means derives a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information, and an output means outputs the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image

reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Amended independent Claim 30 defines a storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps for an information processing method. The storage medium stores code for storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced. Code that inserts a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared. Code that derives a deviation amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted and code that outputs, as the new document, the ink image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted, the ink image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

Amended independent Claim 31 defines a storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps for an information processing method. The storage medium stores code for storing document information comprising locus information and text information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced. Code that edits the text information. Code that derives a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information, and code that outputs the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the invention as defined by independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30 and 31, particularly with respect to shifting the ink (or locus) image according to the derived shift amount with respect to the new text image.

Mosher is seen merely to disclose shifting text at the time of generating a reply email message. In fact, at pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, it is specifically conceded that "Mosher fails to explicitly teach deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image . . . and outputting the text image with the inserted character string". The Office Action takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the shifting of email messages by Mosher with the ink/ASCII editing system of Forcier.

Forcier is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Mosher. In particular, Forcier merely discloses inputting both handwritten character images and character images inputted from a keyboard to the same line, and discriminating the boundaries of a word and performing a wordwrap function on the displayed image.

In contrast, the claimed invention, as defined by amended independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30 and 31, outputs a shifted ink (or locus) image overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted. Because the inserted character string is outputted as text image, the invention derives a shift amount of the ink (or locus) image in order to maintain the relational position of the text image and ink (or locus) image. However, Forcier handles handwritten character image and character image inputted from a keyboard similarly. That is, Forcier performs a wordwrap function on both the handwritten character image and the character image

inputted from a keyboard by, for example, inputting a gesture on the display screen. Accordingly, Forcier is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of shifting the ink (or locus) image according to the derived shift amount with respect to the new text image.

In view of the deficiencies of Mosher and Forcier, independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 26, 30 and 31 are believed allowable, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

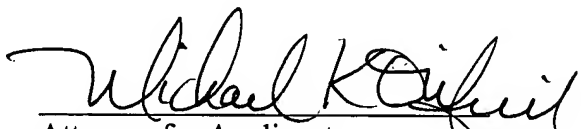
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he she is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714)540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An information processing method comprising [the steps of]:

storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

inserting a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared;

deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [character string inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a format of the character string]; and

outputting, as the new document, the ink image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [the text image with the inserted character string], the ink image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

10. (Twice Amended) An information processing method comprising [the steps of]:

storing document information comprising locus information and text

information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

editing said text information;

deriving a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information[, due to the editing of the text information]; and

outputting the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

11. (Twice Amended) The information processing method according to Claim 10, wherein the derived shift amount is a difference between a position of the text image [information] upon output thereof without the editing and a position of the text image [information] upon output thereof after the editing.

14. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

received mail storing means for storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

insertion means for inserting a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared;

shift amount deriving means for deriving a shift amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [character string inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a format of the character string]; and

output means for outputting, as the new document, the ink image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [the text image with the inserted character string], the ink image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.

26. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage [storing] means for storing document information comprising locus information and text information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

text edit means for editing said text information;

shift amount deriving means for deriving a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information[, due to the editing of the text information]; and

output [outputting] means for outputting the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being

shifted according to the derived shift amount.

27. (Twice Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the derived shift amount is a difference between a position of the text image [information] upon output thereof without the editing and a position of the text image [information] upon output thereof after the editing.

30. (Twice Amended) A storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps for an information processing method [that can be read by a computer], said storage medium storing:

code [a control program] for storing a received mail document including text data and ink data, an ink image being reproduced from the ink data and overlaid on a text image reproduced from the text data when the mail document is reproduced;

code for inserting a character string to the text data when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared;

code [a control program] for deriving a deviation amount of an output position of the ink image according to a new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [character string to be inserted to the text image when a new document quoting the received mail document is prepared and according to a format of the character string]; and

code [a control program] for outputting, as the new document, the ink image

which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the text data to which the character string was inserted [the text image with the inserted character string], the ink image being shifted according to said derived shift amount.

31. (Twice Amended) A storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps for an information processing method [that can be read by a computer], said storage medium storing:

code [a control program] for storing document information comprising locus information and text information, a locus image being reproduced from the locus information and overlaid on a text image being reproduced from the text information when the document is reproduced;

code [a control program] for editing said text information;

code [a control program] for deriving a shift amount of an output position of the locus image according to a new text image reproduced from the edited text information[, due to the editing of the text information]; and

code [a control program] for outputting the locus image which is overlaid on the new text image reproduced from the edited text information, the locus image being shifted according to the derived shift amount.